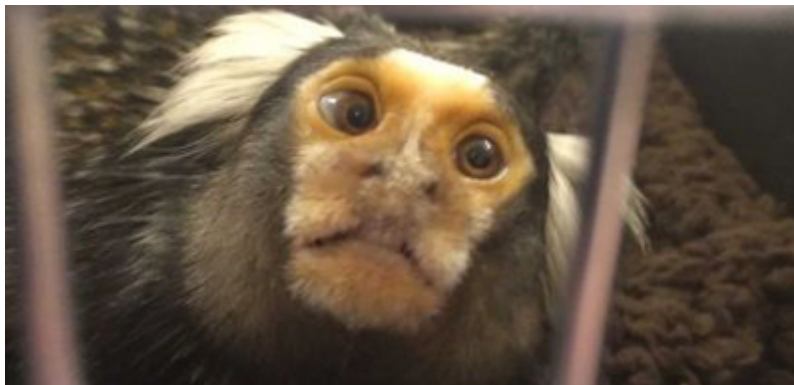


# Suffolk County SPCA Thanks Brookhaven Highway Department for it's Most Successful Amnesty Day

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**Two marmoset monkeys were turned in during Amnesty Day at the Brookhaven Wildlife and Ecology Center.**

**Holtsville, NY** - Residents turned in several illegal animals ranging from an albino western diamondback rattlesnake to two marmoset monkeys during Amnesty Day at the Brookhaven Wildlife and Ecology Center on Saturday, May 10th. The Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) called it the most successful Amnesty Day it has ever had.

"The Suffolk County SPCA is very pleased with the results of the most recent Reptile, Amphibian, Mammal Amnesty," said Roy Gross, SPCA chief. "This has been our most successful Amnesty Day to date with 25 animals turned in. We would like to thank Superintendent Dan Losquadro for allowing us to use the Holtsville Ecology Center to host this event. We look forward to working together again in the future."

"We were very successful in our mission of obtaining animals that are very dangerous to people," said Daniel P. Losquadro, Superintendent of Highways. "The western diamondback rattlesnake that was brought in has enough venom to kill up to four humans. These animals no longer pose a threat and will now thrive in an environment where they will be used to educate the public."

"Having a pet is a wonderful experience. However, owning animals such as those that were turned in at this event - including exotic snakes, alligators and monkeys - is illegal, and dangerous to your family and neighbors," said Supervisor Ed Romaine. "This event was a huge success, and I want to thank the Suffolk SPCA, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for working together with the Town to organize this event at our Holtsville Ecology Site."

Amongst the animals people dropped off were also one green anaconda, four boa constrictors, various types of turtles, an African spur tortoise, an American Alligator and an injured pigeon.

Two box turtles will be kept at the Ecology Site. One has an injured foot and would not be able to hibernate properly in the winter. The other box turtle is not releasable because it was kept in captivity for too long and would not be able to survive. These animals will be on display at the Ecology Site with other rescued turtles.

The two marmoset monkeys will be brought to T&D's Cats of the World in Pennsylvania, an animal refuge specializing in exotic felines and wildlife. The remaining animals, which are reptiles, will be cared for by a company called Rainforest Reptile Shows. The company will provide homes for these reptiles in their sanctuaries in Massachusetts

"These animals will live out their lives in our sanctuaries where they can thrive in a safe environment and be used to inform the public through environmental education," said Michael Rabovsky, herpetologist and general curator for Rainforest Reptile Shows.

"It was a beautiful day and we were glad to see so many people take advantage of this Amnesty Day," said Joan Gallagher, Director of Rainforest Reptile Shows. "This was a successful day in the lives of the many animals turned in. They will have a second lease on life and are now wonderful ambassadors, helping to provide the message to the public on the risks of possessing illegal exotics animals. Rainforest Reptile Shows was glad to be a part of the event

and would like to thank all parties involved, especially Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro of the Highway Department and the fabulous staff of the Brookhaven Wildlife and Ecology Center."

**Daniel P. Losquadro \* Highway Superintendent**

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